

PEACE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of the Peace Pledge Union serving all who are working for Peace

No. 17.

London: October 10, 1936.

2d.

WHAT SHALL THE ARMS RACE TEACH US?

France says "To Disarm": but Britain says, "Rearm!"

DISARMAMENT! A combination of deliberate suppression and lack of sympathy has caused this word almost to disappear from the columns of the press.

Having already (a fortnight ago) drawn public attention to the new attempt to end the arms race, PEACE NEWS again gives prominence to the latest moves in this direction.

Among these is the report to the League Assembly by its Third Committee expressing the hope that the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference might be revived. It met last on November 20, 1934, when it "adjourned"!

The inevitable feeble protestations (even by France, the initiators of the new move) to the effect that the countries for whom the delegates spoke were only waiting for a disarmament agreement to release them from the unfortunate necessity of arming serve but to emphasize the importance of the various unofficial efforts (which, as we show below, are international in character) that are being made to encourage the statesmen at Geneva to take bold steps in the direction of disarmament.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

After being in abeyance for three

years, the Disarmament (Third) Committee of the League Assembly was convened last week-end at the request of the representatives of France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Finland. Only the Hungarian delegates declined to assist in its work.

At its concluding meeting on Wednesday the committee resolved to report to the Assembly its emphatic view that disarmament efforts should not be abandoned, but that all that could be attempted just now in the way of limiting arms was

1. To set up a permanent disarmament commission;
2. To control the trade in arms; and
3. To give publicity to all military expenditure.

All the delegations which had asked for the committee to be convened favoured recommending the setting of the Bureau of the Conference to work again. But the final resolution stated that "the date of its convocation and the results of its discussions depend very largely on the important negotiations that are so frequently mentioned at present."

Whether this means indefinite postponement or not depends upon the attitudes of France (as the prime movers), Great Britain (as the country whose influence still carries most weight at Geneva), and—the world peace movement.

French Policy

The very fact of the resuscitation of the Disarmament Committee of the Assembly was described by M. Blum, Prime Minister of France, on Saturday as "an event of first-class importance the purport of which had not been fully appreciated".

Referring to the Franco-British-U.S. currency agreement, which he claimed had already lessened international tension, M. Blum linked what he called "economic disarmament" with military disarmament, hoping that moves toward both would coincide.

Britain and Arms

On Thursday of last week the Conservative Party conference at Margate passed this resolution:—

That this conference, having regard to the enormous growth of armaments abroad, records its conviction that the pursuit of a policy of one-sided disarmament by this country would be more likely to promote war than peace and would render impossible the creation of an effective system of collective security. It accordingly deplores the continued attempts which are being made in the name of peace to hinder normal recruiting and prevent the restoration of our defence forces to a reasonable level of strength.

Supporting the resolution, Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty, "dealt with facts"—but he drew from them a "moral" very different from M. Blum's that "the more Europe arms the greater must be the effort to promote disarmament." Indeed, his only reference to disarmament was to say that

if, as we all hope, in the future we can arrive at any general limitation of armaments, it must be on the assumption that our programme has been completed.

This followed logically from his statement that "much of this programme is absolute and not relative", meaning that it must be proceeded with "whatever may or may not happen in other countries of the world". Mr. Neville Chamberlain underlined this when he addressed the conference on the following day.

The official policy of the recognized alternative to the present Government of this country was stated when the Labour Party passed the following resolution on Tuesday at its annual conference at Edinburgh:—

That in view of the threatening attitude of dictatorships which are increasing their armaments at an unprecedented rate, flouting international law and refusing to cooperate in the work of organizing peace, this conference declares that the armed strength of the countries loyal to the League of Nations must be conditioned

ed by the armed strength of the potential aggressors. The conference therefore reaffirms the policy of the Labour Party to maintain such defence forces as are consistent with our country's responsibility as a member of the League of Nations, the preservation of the people's rights and liberties, the continuance of democratic institutions, and the observance of international law. Realizing the relationship between foreign policy and armaments . . . the Labour Party . . . reserves full liberty to criticize the rearmament programme of the present Government.

The Peace Movement

"A world treaty for immediate reduction of arms as a step toward complete world disarmament" is one of the four demands made by the ten million signatories to the People's Mandate to Governments whose names were presented in a "golden book" to M. Saavedra Lamas, as President of the League Assembly.

Dealing more specifically with the present efforts of the statesmen at Geneva was a resolution adopted last Friday by the International Consultative Group for Peace and Disarmament (of Geneva) urging delegations at the Assembly to press not only for special agreements concerning publicity of national defence expenditure, and international supervision of the manufacture of and the traffic in arms, but also for a wider agreement designed to arrest the present armaments race, and to hold out the promise of subsequent reductions."

Yet another statement, sent to the delegates of the Assembly by the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organizations, calls attention to:—

The necessity for a renewed attempt to win agreement on a convention limiting and reducing armaments and establishing international control—disarmament being indeed one of the conditions of the whole system of collective security.

YOU CAN DEMAND DISARMAMENT!

The national "Manifesto for Peace and Disarmament" (published in full in PEACE NEWS of September 26) has now been referred to in some thirty newspapers, although in several cases the press has not published any of the names of the prominent people who first signed the manifesto.

Pending a possible national pacifist convention, the committee responsible for the issue of the manifesto makes the following suggestions for action:—

1. Ask for such copies as can be usefully circulated and obtain the signatures of those in agreement;
2. Send to Mr. Cecil H. Wilson, 48, St. George's Road, London, S.W.1, the names and addresses of those in agreement; and
3. Opportunities should be taken to call attention to it in the local press.

LABOUR'S 3 to 1 FOR ARMS

"Biggest Obstacle to
Militarism has
Given in"

By FRANK R. HANCOCK,
"Peace News" Special Correspondent

THE vote on rearmament has just been taken. Nearly three to one the party has voted for rearmament, with certain qualifications which may mean little or nothing.

All day the discussion continued, strenuous speeches being made for and against. Early on, George Lansbury mounted the rostrum, and received by far the biggest ovation yet accorded to any speaker.

He asked whether the Labour Party had not something better to tell the world, than to advocate a policy of war preparation. He contended that the division of nations was not political, not fascist versus democratic, but economic.

He begged the conference to give up talking of armaments—"Armaments cannot save the world".

Sir Stafford Cripps moved the reference back, on the ground that such a departure from Labour's previous policy, demanded a more carefully framed resolution than that before the conference, and a different direction.

The voting was significant. Apart from the big trade unions, almost every "card" went up against rearmament. But they were the cards of the Divisional Labour Party, with just one or two votes each (carrying 1,000 votes and 2,000 votes). Then the trade unions, with their block votes running into hundreds of thousands, voted "for".

So the local Labour Parties are committed to a policy from which most of them dissent. It remains to be seen with what conviction the Labour Parties throughout the country advocate a policy to which there is only antagonism.

(PEACE NEWS has already been informed of one London constituency organization which will not stand for this policy.—Ed.)

There is a feeling of sheer pessimism and disappointment among many of the Labour Party delegates—even those who are not pacifist. It is felt that one more, and perhaps the biggest, political obstacle to militarism has given in.

ON OTHER PAGES

Peace Pledge Union news	2 & 5
Peoples' Delegates at Geneva	3
Lord Ponsonby on Atrocities	4
Public Affairs in Brief	5
An Arthur Wragg Poster	6
"How Youth Can Stop War"	7
Readers' letters	7 & 8

PEACE PLEDGE UNION IN THE NEWS



Above: Bradford comes into the Picture

Below: National and Local Plans

From Our Own Correspondents

FURTHER plans are now being worked out for the November campaign of the Peace Pledge Union (referred to in PEACE NEWS last week), and in particular the meeting in the Royal Albert Hall on November 27 has been definitely fixed for 8 p.m.

The same method for the application of tickets for the Albert Hall will be used as was so successfully carried out for the original meeting there.

London team leaders or representatives were invited to meet at headquarters last week to talk over questions of organization. As a result the place was crowded out by members keen to know how best to get their fellow members cooperating in the work of the Union.

There were lots of other things they wanted to discuss, and it was decided to meet in this way on the last Tuesday in every month.

Five hundred copies of a leaflet by Lord Sanderson entitled **Let Britain lead the way** were printed specially for distribution at the Annual Conference of the Labour Party at Edinburgh this week, in order to put the case for total disarmament before the delegates to the conference.

That "war is condemned by the very standards which it sets up to justify itself by"—its ability to make Europe safe for democracy, for example—was one of the emphatic conclusions which the Rev. Henry Carter drew from a lucid examination of the European situation and our responsibility in the face of it, and of the failure of the war method, at the public inaugural meeting last week of the **North-West London** group.

After a plea for a frank consideration by all the nations of the grievances from which people are suffering, as the alternative to the war method, Mr. Carter emphasized the individual responsibility of "every human unit", and urged his hearers to join and work with the Peace Pledge Union.

Thirty people (not all signatories) attended a preliminary meeting of the **Shrewsbury** team last week. The discussion, following the address by Mr. Collin Smith, showed an inquiring frame of mind.

A team to cover **Maidenhead, Marlow and district**, was formed at a meeting in Maidenhead on September 25. This team has appointed a literature secretary, who will be responsible for the sale of PEACE NEWS.

"Nature wipes away ruthlessly any

species that fails to learn to live. It can quite easily happen to Man", said Mr. Gerald Heard at **Walthamstow** last week at a meeting arranged by the Walthamstow team and the Friends Hall Peace Group.

Nearly fifty men and women were present at an open meeting held on Thursday of last week by the recently inaugurated **Woburn Sands** team, when it was particularly emphasized that pacifism must be constructive and not merely negative.

The **Sydenham** branch of the Peace Pledge Union which welcomes anyone who may be interested to its monthly meetings, will meet next in the Friends' Meeting House, Venner Road, on October 28.

Yet another district in which a team was inaugurated last month, was **Ifford**, where some seventy people were present at a meeting in the Friends' Meeting House on September 24.

A speech by Dr. Alfred Salter, M.P., was received with great enthusiasm by a large audience at **Sutton** on September 24. The meeting had been organized jointly by the local Fellowship of Reconciliation branch and Peace Pledge team, and at the conclusion several questions were answered by Dr. Salter.

... and Miss Regent writes:

There is now some headed notepaper for local groups and it can be ordered from this office. The price is 5s. 9d. per 500 sheets, including postage. Envelopes to match cost 1s. per 100.

We were invited this week to exchange newspapers with a Young Catholic movement in Holland. We were only too delighted to oblige but no one in the office can read Dutch so we are not much wiser about them than we were before. Any offers?

One of our members has just walked in with a huge portmanteau and asked for it to be filled with pledge cards! He is canvassing an area in North London and is leaving a card at each house and calling back a few days later.

We are analyzing the results of this canvass from the cards we receive and I will give a report on them in a future issue of PEACE NEWS.

The Organizing Secretary is suffering from a bad deflation. Someone who had been invited to discuss some matter with her duly arrived but declared, when he saw her, that he had nothing to say to a child and walked out again!

M.R.

96 Regent Street, W.1.

THESE EXHIBITIONS MEAN BUSINESS!

How You Can Help

NEWARK Peace Society is determined to make a thorough success of its exhibition on November 11 to 14. For weeks its members have been making energetic preparations, not only of the United Methodist Hall, where it is to be held, but preparations to meet the cost.

In this connexion, "youth speaks" (the title of the meeting) on its behalf in the same hall tomorrow night.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of the chairman of Newark Peace Society, Mr. H. E. Street, help is coming from all quarters, and his efficient publicity has resulted in the loan of a good deal of material—including about a hundred posters, thousands of cuttings, originals of cartoons, publications and other objects of historical interest and importance, and even sculpture!

This is a piece of work which is good in itself, is giving people who want to work for peace something really useful to do, and is definitely putting Newark "on the map". Offers to help should be sent to the secretary of the exhibition committee at 27 Hardwick Avenue, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

From today until next Saturday there will be a sort of multiple exhibition in a shop in All Saints Square, Rotherham, consisting of

Wallasey Peace Exhibition, which is Christian pacifist and has the subtitle "Christ and War"; **Coventry Exhibition**; and **Women's Peace Crusade exhibition** called "Disarm the Air".

Organized by a committee representing the League of Nations Union, Society of Friends, Women's Cooperative Guild, Christian Pacifist Group, Women's International League, and Peace Council in Rotherham, the exhibition is thus a thoroughly cooperative effort. Help is needed to meet the cost of £20, and it should be sent to the Rev. J. C. G. Burton, Walden, Godstone Road, Rotherham.

It will be open from 10.30 a.m. till 9.30 p.m. every day except tomorrow, when the hours will be 7.45 p.m.—9.30 p.m.

CHURCH'S TEACHING ON WAR

Special Services in London

Arrangements have been made by a group of Anglican clergy to secure comprehensive teaching on the Christian attitude toward warfare and to train people in non-violent activity.

To meet the need for some church in which there would be regular teaching, where opportunity would be made for inquirers to make personal contacts and to ask questions, and where those who are convinced of the necessity of Christian action could train, and meet others like-minded, the Church of Saint George, in Bloomsbury, will be open for a short service from 6.30—7.15 p.m. every Thursday, starting next week. There will be an address and prayers, with the Rev. Gilbert Shaw in charge and usually being the speaker, though Canon Sheppard, Father P. Gliddon (author of "Fourteen points of a Pacifist Priest," from which our "Pacifist's IF" is taken), and others have promised their assistance.

After the service there will be an opportunity for personal interviews with the clergy, and at 8 o'clock there will be class meetings for those who feel the need of instruction in the "evangelism" of peace.

PACIFISTS AND THE "CO-OPS"

Societies " Allied with War Preparation "

THE suggestion that pacifists who are members of cooperative societies should protest against their societies' assisting the Government in its war preparations, is made by Mr. Frank Dawtry, a well-known member of the No More War Movement.

Writing in the "Yorkshire Pacifist Bulletin", he says:—

The "Cooperative News" gives information that leaders of the cooperative movement have conferred with the Air Raid Precautions Department, regarding the safeguarding of food supplies in war.

This allies the greatest food distributing concern (owned by the people) with active preparation for war.

Our cooperative members should use their powers, organizations and quarterly meeting votes to protest against and possibly reverse this action. And they should ignore Mr. A. V. Alexander's suggestion that this is impudence on our part.

WEST REGIONAL CALLING!

The election of officers for the West Regional Pacifist Council (covering Somerset, Wiltshire, and Dorset) will be one of the concerns of a conference to be held in Yeovil Congregational Junior School Room today and tomorrow. The other purposes will be to hear Canon S. D. Morris speak on "constructivist-activist pacifism" (this afternoon) and "Pacifism—a way of life" (tomorrow night) and R. S. de Ropp on the Activist Order.

LECTURES ON THE CAUSES OF WAR

This is the season of lectures. One series that should be of particular interest and value will start on Monday in Friends' House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Held under the auspices of the Home and School Council of Great Britain (29 Tavistock Square, W.C.1), the lectures (and study group discussions) will be on "Advances in understanding causes of war", the course being divided into two groups of six lectures each. The first group will be by Dr. Graham Howe, and after Monday they will be given on the following three Wednesdays and the two Mondays after that. Starting on Armistice Day, the second group will be Lord Allen, Sir Norman Angell, Mr. Gerald Heard, and others.

The full fee is 35s., including discussions, and single tickets cost 5s.

CHRISTIAN PACIFISM AND LAW

The Autumn Assembly of the Congregational Union will be made the occasion of a meeting, on Tuesday, in the Digbeth Institute, Birmingham, of the Christian Pacifist Crusade and anyone else interested in "Christian Pacifism and International Law", which will be the subject of an address by H. G. Wood, of Selly Oak.

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PEOPLES' DELEGATES AT GENEVA

What the Churches did at Brussels

THE significance of the Brussels Congress and World Youth Congress was brought home to the President and members of the League of Nations Assembly on Thursday of last week, when they received a delegation representing the International Peace Campaign. The delegation was introduced to the Assembly by Viscount Cecil, and included representatives of peace organizations, trade unions, and ex-Service men, from many countries.

The four points of the campaign were enumerated by Lord Cecil, who emphasized the fact that the International Peace Campaign was mobilizing public opinion behind the League of Nations, and he reminded the Assembly that public opinion had often been called the life blood of the League of Nations.

The point of view of youth was put by Miss Elizabeth Shields-Collins, who recalled that none of those present at the recent World Youth Congress at Geneva were old enough to have taken part in the Great War.

The report of the Trade Union Commission of the Brussels congress was read to the Assembly by M. Jouhaux, who said that he spoke for the millions of organized workers.

A declaration drawn up on behalf of ten million organized ex-soldiers was presented by M. Rivollet the French ex-Service men's leader. He was accompanied by a dozen war-wounded veterans, whose presence was intended to make plain to the government

**FILL IN THE FORM
ON PAGE 8**

representatives that the ordinary man is well aware how he will be treated by the armaments which all governments are piling up.

One part of the work of the Brussels congress which has received little prominence in the British press was that done by the Churches Commission. Yet this commission affirmed the need for the Churches to proclaim that the citizenship of the kingdom of God has greater authority than the claims of any nation, and that in so far as the State gives precedence to the national duty above the obedience of the Christian to the kingdom of God, the Churches should uphold their members who refuse submission to the national claims.

Other resolutions adopted by the Churches Commission declared the super-national and social character of the Gospel, and the need for cooperation in the establishment of a new social order based on justice and brotherhood.

Finally, it was suggested that each Church should have a peace committee to "promote continuously a crusade for the abandonment of war", and to carry on definite peace work and propaganda.

A PEACE MUSEUM IN BRUSSELS

An international peace museum which has been on show in Brussels this week closes tomorrow. It has been open from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. each day, and each evening different speakers have given talks on particular aspects of the problem of war.

On Wednesday, for example, three women spoke on "Women and War", and other talks have dealt specifically with the position of the Church, the press, and youth.

FIGHTING WAR AND FASCISM

Work Done at Paris Conference

THE immediate tasks of the fight against war and fascism occupied the attention of the International Conference of the World Committee against War and Fascism, which took place in Paris just after the World Peace Congress. A resolution passed by the Conference provided for an intensification of the struggle against fascism; world wide action for the exposure of fascism as the chief war maker; an international "campaign of enlightenment on the National Socialist ideology"; and special steps to counteract the fascist activity conducted in small countries.

A special resolution was adopted dealing with the Spanish question, in which the Conference called upon "the masses of the people, especially the workers in the transport and war industries, to exercise the utmost vigilance and control and prevent the dispatch of arms from their own country, or through their own country, to the rebels".

An impressive statement on the significance of the great struggle in Spain was made by Marcellino Domingo, and reports on the situation in their respective countries were made by delegates from England, France, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, China, Scotland, Switzerland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, and Holland.

A PEOPLES' PACT

To Unite for Action Against War

A PROPOSAL for a peoples' peace pact which seems to have escaped the attention of the press of this country, has been made by the American and Canadian Leagues against War and Fascism. They declare that the peoples of the world want peace, while the governments are prepared for war.

"It is time", they continue, "for the peoples of the world to talk directly to one another; to unite; to act."

They have therefore joined in declaring that they will:

1. Inform their governments that they will not take part in, or in any way support its invasion of or attack upon any other nation in violation of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Paris Pact or the Rio de Janeiro Treaty.

2. Demand of their government that its armed forces and armaments shall not exceed the amount required for actual defence from invasion; this to be but a first step toward universal, complete disarmament.

3. Proclaim the invader of another nation the enemy of mankind; demand that their government order the cessation of all commercial, financial, and diplomatic relations with the invader until the invading forces are withdrawn; organize to stop, by peoples' action any war supplies, loans or credits going from or through their country to the invader.

4. Initiate and support measures designed to secure equal access for all nations to all things needed for their development.

5. Resist all attempts to prevent or stop the people from expressing and organizing themselves on behalf of measures that seek to secure peace and freedom throughout the world.

A PACIFIST IN THE CIVIL WAR

Chances for Constructive Work

A Letter from Spain

THAT there are opportunities open for constructive work even during a bitter civil war was shown by the report in PEACE NEWS last week of the work being carried on by members of the Spanish League of War Resisters.

What this work involves for the individual is indicated in the following letter written by a pacifist during the early days of the civil war, and published in "Fellowship", the organ of the American Fellowship of Reconciliation:

"In Barcelona", he wrote, "there were days of bitter strife.

"From the first moment I placed myself unreservedly at the service of freedom, without thereby renouncing my principles of absolute war resistance.

"That is to say, I have done and continue to do what I can by word and deed, but without participating in violent actions, for the anti-fascist

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PEACE NEWS
EARLY**

cause; and within the proletarian and democratic organizations which are struggling to save Spain from this reactionary tyranny.

"My work is that of information and propaganda.

"In Barcelona, in Valencia, in the province of Caceres and in Madrid I have acted and continue to act, in such interesting tasks as:-

"Stimulating, directing and organizing the peasants so that instead of abandoning their agricultural work, they work, even in those areas abandoned by the fascists in their flight.

"In establishing and organizing schools and homes for the children of those citizens who have fallen or are fighting on the various fronts.

"In general taking advantage of all opportunities to spread among the combatants our humanitarian ideals and our repugnance to oppression and cruelty."

THE NOBEL PRIZE

Famous Norwegian Painter's Suggestion

Use It for The Fight!

Henrik Sorenson, one of the most famous Norwegian painters, is an ardent pacifist.

Sorenson recently addressed a great audience at Oslo University on the war danger and what Norway could do about it.

He pointed out the uselessness of equipping everyone with a gas mask and urged common action of the Scandinavian countries in the event of a European conflict.

Sorenson also made an interesting suggestion in regard to the Nobel Peace Prize.

For three years he believes, this fund should be given to the peace organizations of three different countries with the instructions that they organize an up-to-date, fighting alliance of the peace forces. (Nofrontier News Service.)

RELEASE OF WAR RESISTERS

Petitions Achieve Results Policy of W.R.I. on Sanctions

AS a result of petitions organized by the War Resisters' International, the release has been secured of six Rumanian war resisters, all of whom were serving sentences of over two years, while in France the release has been effected of Gérard Vidal, who was serving a two years' sentence.

Another French resister, Charles Coin, is also expected to be released shortly.

The Council of the International recently discussed the question of sanctions, and the following extracts from a statement by Harold F. Bing, giving the general view held by the members of the Council, will undoubtedly be of interest to all pacifists.

"As pacifists we are always opposed to the manufacture of munitions of war and of the transport of munitions and of materials for war purposes to any and every government and particularly of course to a government which is waging war or threatening to do so.

"We know that the Great Powers, by their nature imperialist, are not concerned about the independence of small States, except in so far as such States are useful to them. We should therefore be deluding our comrades in the small countries if we encouraged them to rely upon such protection.

"The only hope for them lies in the direct action of the workers in their own and other countries.

"We are entirely in favour of all methods of non-cooperation with governments in their war policies. We are not concerned to support the imperialist intrigues of one government against another, merely because they use methods which resemble those advocated by ourselves."

NON-COOPERATION IN WAR PLANS

Resistance by Workers

Basis of New World Congress

Workers in all parts of the world are mobilizing against war.

The International Bureau for Revolutionary Socialist Unity has called a World Congress against War, Fascism and Imperialism to be held some time in October in Brussels or Paris, and working class organizations in many countries have already indicated their support.

Among those that will send delegates are the Swedish Socialist Party, Italian Socialist Party, Spanish Workers' Party, French Teachers' Union, Poale Zion and Marxists Circles of Palestine, Rumanian United Socialist Party, Belgian Anti-War League, Danish Socialist Youth League, Revolutionary Socialist League of Holland, and many others.

The basis of the congress is direct working-class resistance to war by refusal to cooperate in war preparations or the prosecution of war.

Local and national working-class organizations are entitled to send delegates. Further information is available at the International Secretariat, I.L.P., 35 St. Bride Street, London, E.C.4. (Nofrontier News Service.)

PEACE NEWS

WAR, the greatest of

ATROCITIES

by

LORD PONSONBY



Courtesy, Daily Herald

"DEALING WITH FACTS"

THE Conservative Party "deplores the continued attempts which are being made in the name of peace to hinder normal recruiting and prevent the restoration of our defence forces to a reasonable level of strength." So says the resolution passed at the party conference at Margate last week. One courageous delegate from the Metropolitan Area—fit subject for a drawing by H. M. Bateman—dared to oppose the motion. Perhaps he didn't quite know what "a reasonable level" meant. But then he rushed in before Sir Samuel Hoare had "explained" how grave the international situation had become as a result of rearmament—we beg his pardon, of **foreign** rearmament, an all-important distinction, in his opinion.

For unless we impute other than the sincerest motives to the Conservative Party (and we should be the last of their critics to do that), we must test their demand for armaments by their assertion that they are necessary because other nations are arming—"even Switzerland," said Sir Samuel, with an air of placing the last straw (or fact) on the pacifist camel's back! Oh yes, "I deal with facts. I make no criticisms. I launch no attacks upon any country in the world," said Sir Samuel.

So "the great Powers" which "have added to their programmes" can now point out to any of their nationals who may dare to criticize that not even the Great Britain does as much. Or, as they will put it, "Not even Great Britain regards our armaments as a menace to her security." So far, with Sir Samuel Hoare, they will be keeping within the safe bounds of fact. It is, we must suppose, when they draw from this fact, together with the fact of our increasing arms, "the lessons that they have to teach"—namely "the need of a greatly strengthened (Germany for example) as a stabilizing force on the side of peace"—that they begin to trespass where angels fear to tread. Only we are entitled to draw such conclusions (regarding our own arms) from such facts regarding others'.

It is, in fact, Sir Samuel Hoare whom we quote! But it is also a fact that other nations do "argue" in this way. It may or may not be a fact that they have no right to do it. But it is a very definite fact that the result is rising armaments all round. It is an equally definite fact while arms programmes are based on those of others there can be no end to them but war. Indeed, our statesmen actually admit it almost in the same breath as defending their own rearmament!

Finally, therefore, it is an even more definite fact that, if following others' armament examples is going to lead to war, the way to peace lies in the opposite direction—not in maintaining inadequate armaments and an imperialist policy (which we agree "would be more likely to promote war than peace"), but in promoting the well-being of ALL nations and thus doing away with the need for ANY arms.

ONE would like to think that no such things as atrocities exist, or at any rate that they only take place in the wild and passionate turmoil of war when the latent brute takes possession of the man.

One would like to think that only the coarse male is capable of them.

But, alas, we must face the unpleasant fact that both men and women, not only in war time, not only in hot blood, but in peace time and cold blood, are capable of inconceivable cruelty and will even take pleasure in the infliction of pain and agony.

The annual list of convictions published by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children alone gives us just a small insight into one aspect of the still degraded nature of man even in our own country in the second quarter of the twentieth century.

★

BUT this terrible propensity of certain people in certain circumstances takes on a more alarming aspect when nationalist animosities or violent partisan passions are fully roused.

By means of publicity, exaggeration, and lying, atrocities become an essential method of propaganda, greedily used by the heads of factions and the governments of States. Knowing that in general atrocities cannot be denied, they dress them up to suit their purpose at the convenient moment.

We must not forget the faked picture postcards turned out in a foreign capital during the Great War with blanks left under the hideous pictures for the insertion of whatever legend the purchasers might wish.

Now the circumstantial stories (early in every war) describing cruelties and hardships to prisoners which have to be circulated to prevent desertions.

Nor yet again the well-equipped atrocity studio in another European capital where wax faces, false limbs, and convincing blood stains were skilfully arranged for horrible photographs.

Real photographs of scenes, quite

other than what was pretended by their titles, were also widely distributed.

★

THE more rapid circulation of news and photographs has recently greatly increased atrocity recriminations and not only in armed conflicts but in the conflict of opinions in which a government may be concerned, this deplorable method of propaganda is stimulated until we may well feel utter despair at the barbarity of human nature, individually as well as collectively, on the part of the scum on the top as well as of the dregs at the bottom.

We might be surprised to find, could we by some supernatural means, visualize the actions of man all the world over, that, with the exception of oases of neighbourly kindness, more especially in the country side, and with intervals of calm, there is far more frequent recourse to cruelty and violence than, say, fifty years ago.

Why is this?

The War accustomed men to violence because war means violence and war is accepted by the governments of the world as an approved method of attempting to settle international disputes.

Weapons are easily available to increase the ferocity of civil war and to raise hopes in revolutions.

Does anyone in authority lead in condemning the inevitable barbarities involved in modern warfare? Certainly not. On the contrary, more inhuman engines of devastation continue to be invented or perfected.

★

THUS, the governmental authorities of the great nations, from whom an example should come, give their sanction, approval, and encouragement to the most up-to-date methods of exterminating human beings by the thousand and by the hundred thousand; maiming, burning, poisoning, torturing them to death in an attempt, which they know beforehand to be futile, to settle differences which diplomacy for the moment has failed to adjust.

Not barbarians, ruffians, rebels, or robbers in the boiling passion of the moment, but men of high reputation, respected and proud of their moral integrity, sit round tables and coolly lay plans for this.

Unquestionably, since man rose to an erect position, from being on all fours, no greater atrocity has ever been more deliberately perpetrated than this, no worse example has ever been set to the common people, no greater danger has imperilled civilization, and no worse stimulus has been given to the degradation of human nature.

IT SEEMS TO ME . . .

Free For All

A by no means socialist friend of mine recently suggested that one way of salvaging the present system might be for the State to provide free for everyone the absolute necessities of life—bread, milk, housing, fuel, etc.—allowing this minimum to be supplemented by free competition.

The essentials, unpriced, would be beyond speculation. Proper nutrition and housing would raise health standards.

Anybody could refuse the government provision and have its value knocked off their income tax. Relatively little reorganization would be necessary.

But the cost? I protested. Together we looked up a few figures.

For £55 million the State could buy all the dairy produce of Great Britain, for another £55 million all the grain imported, for £30 million all the coal used for domestic purposes—a good start for my friend's programme.

Total cost: £140 million. Current cost of arms programme: around £200 million and still going up.

England 1936

SEEN, heard, encountered on a cross-country journey:

3 herds of cows; across bare fields, the steel skeleton of a new R.A.F. aerodrome; farm carts outside a cooperative creamery;

14 tramps; hands in pockets, collars turned up, unemployed on the pavements of small midland towns;

recruiting posters: "It's good to get into the Army!";

boys' voices at evensong in Worcester Cathedral; girls bicycling home from a factory in the dusk;

armoured cars in a country lane; a flock of sheep.

Activist Training

A penetrating document is the just-issued manifesto of the Activist Order, which aims at a more rigorous and intensive training in constructive pacifism.

Discipline, is stresses, is even more important for non-violent reform than it is for violent war.

"The activist undertakes to impose on himself a training far more severe than that imposed on the common soldier." Emphasized is the communal side of mental training.

Gandhi's first civil disobedience campaign in 1920-1 was abandoned for lack of such discipline, his second ten years later was successful because of it.

by Ampersand

One remembers the schoolbook story about the sacking of Rome by the Goths.

The raiders, bursting into the Capitol, found the senate in session. Before the semi-circle of elders, silent, immobile, unperturbed, they halted, uncertain. Were these men gods?

Greatly daring, a soldier tiptoed forward and pulled a senator's beard to see. Furious, the old man hit out in a distinctly ungodlike way.

It was enough. No senator escaped.

Most pacifists can probably remain calm at the first emergency. To continue quietly laying the foundations of a non-violent society in the face of beard tugging, some such intensive training certainly seems essential.

Toujours la Politesse

EXTRACT from Brewster's "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable":

"Affront, from Lat. ad frontem, to the face. In savage nations opposing armies, before they begin hostilities, by grimaces, sounds, words, and all conceivable means, try to provoke and terrify their vis-à-vis. When this 'affronting' is over, the adversaries rush against each other, and the fight begins."

In civilized countries, of course, we politely hide our feelings behind a gas-mask.

PUBL

Dominions

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According to **September 30**, Mr. General, informants that reported the severance of the League of Nations Treaty. He amendments to invited from no Australian Government in favour of automatics against a and also LEAGUE.) A

A large-scale held in Vienna Province of 2.

The executive wehr met in Vienna on October 2, and a community first day's meeting Fey had been elected sub-leaders expressing confidence in Pr

A Shanghai meeting on September 30 stated that counter-demands already this report was Government on The Shanghai Manchester G on October 2 reached a deadlock preparations were sides. General Chinese Premier, from Canton on expected that he would be with the Japanese the following day of China" see page D.

Consequently on Lester as League for Danzig (see a saw message dated that 75 socialists Danzig during the FF

The devaluation of the German Devaluation in the Senate by September 30, a counterpart" of the latter the German general provision rise in the cost of Bill was finally 1 and Chamber on GEI

The Berlin Manchester G on October 1 that G attached to gold stated that the will be raised as man adhesion to the revaluation, which at promotes greater It was stated Berlin Correspondent that the German was not much po a conference (the Conference) as the tors needing sett on the outcome war.

GREAT Raid Precautions on September dangers of gas, it would shoo householder. On reported that Major medical adviser pointed out to secretaries of the ciation that it was profession as a gas, since the prof one of the main su

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN BRIEF

Dominions and the League : : Deadlock in China
Non-Intervention in Spain

AUSTRALIA

According to a message dated **September 30**, Mr. Menzies, the Attorney-General, informed the House of Representatives that the Government supported the severance of the Covenant of the League of Nations from the Versailles Treaty. He added that suggested amendments to the Covenant should be invited from non-member States. The Australian Government were also in favour of automatically applicable sanctions against a declared aggressor. (See also LEAGUE.)

AUSTRIA

A large-scale air-raid practice was held in Vienna and the Lower Austrian Province on the night of **October 2**.

The executive of the Fascist Heimwehr met in Vienna on **October 1** and **2**, and a communiqué issued after the first day's meeting stated that Major Fey had been expelled, and that "all sub-leaders expressed their unlimited confidence in Prince Starhemberg."

CHINA

A Shanghai message dated **September 30** stated that China had presented counter-demands to Japan in reply to demands already made by Japan, but this report was denied by the Nanking Government on the same day.

The Shanghai Correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" telegraphed on **October 2** that negotiations had reached a deadlock, and that military preparations were proceeding on both sides. General Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese Premier, returned to Nanking from Canton on **October 5**, and it was expected that he would discuss the dispute with the Japanese Ambassador on the following day. (For "Background of China" see page 7.)

DANZIG

Consequent on the resignation of Mr. Lester as League High Commissioner for Danzig (see also LEAGUE), a Warsaw message dated **October 4** stated that 75 socialists had been arrested in Danzig during the previous 24 hours.

FRANCE

The devaluation clauses of the Government's Devaluation Bill were passed in the Senate by 137 votes to 127 on **September 30**, although the "social counterpart" of devaluation was "detached" from the Bill. In place of the latter the Government included a general provision against a possible rise in the cost of living. The amended Bill was finally passed by the Senate and Chamber on **October 1**.

GERMANY

The Berlin Correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" stated on **October 1** that Germany was no longer attached to gold parity. It was also stated that the "question of colonies will be raised as a condition for German adhesion to a new currency stabilization, which at the same time would promote greater international trade".

It was stated on **October 3** by the Berlin Correspondent of "The Times" that the German view was that there was not much point in entering upon a conference (the proposed Five Power Conference) as there were several matters needing settlement which hinged on the outcome of the Spanish civil war.

GREAT BRITAIN

Commander I. B. Franks, of the Air Raid Precautions Department, announced on **September 30** that a book on the dangers of gas, issued by the Government, would shortly be sent to every householder. On **October 3** it was reported that Major Stuart Blackmore, medical adviser to the Department, pointed out to a meeting of branch secretaries of the British Medical Association that it was vital for the medical profession as a whole to know about gas, since the profession was at present one of the main supports of the nation-

al morale, which the gas bomb was intended to destroy.

The "Sunday Express" of **October 4** declared that "the Cabinet has set its face against compulsory service in peace time" but that a new recruiting drive to be announced soon would probably include the attendance of recruiting officers at all Labour Exchanges, and the appointment of a civilian director of recruiting propaganda, as was done during the War.

Speaking at Bath on **October 5**, Mr. Duff Cooper said that recruitment for the Territorial Army during the last five months had improved by 60 per cent over what it was a year ago, but even if that rate of improvement were continued it would not bring the establishment up to strength for another ten years.

ITALY

An agreement for the resumption and regulation of trade and financial relations between Italy and Bulgaria was signed in Rome on **October 1**.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

In the League Assembly on **September 29** the Canadian representative declared that his Government still opposed the view that the main purpose of the League was to guarantee the territorial status quo and to rely upon force for the maintenance of peace.

The Australian delegate put forward the view that it was impossible for a League that was not universal to give full effect to the conception of the Covenant. (See also AUSTRALIA.)

The New Zealand speaker said that his people were ready to take their collective share in economic sanctions or in applying force against an aggressor.

The League Council decided on **September 30** to appoint Mr. Lester, the High Commissioner in Danzig, as Deputy Secretary General of the League, although he is to remain at Danzig until the question of his successor there has been decided.

On **October 3** the Assembly decided to increase the number of non-permanent seats on the Council from nine to eleven.

In a debate on economic and financial questions which began on **October 5**, Mr. W. S. Morrison, the British representative, asked that the League should inquire into the problem of access to raw materials. In the public session Poland undertook to remove the obstructions put in the way of the League's authority in Danzig by the Nazis. (See also page 1.)

NEW ZEALAND

At Wellington on **October 5** the congress of the British Empire Chambers of Commerce endorsed the underlying principle of the Ottawa agreements, but recommended bilateral agreements of a supplementary nature.

PALESTINE

An Order in Council published on **September 29** gives the High Commissioner authority to delegate to the G.O.C. in Palestine the power to issue regulations for securing public safety and the defence of the country. Messages from Jerusalem and Cairo dated **October 4** indicated that the Arab strike was about to end, and that in the hope of this the proclamation of martial law was not being made for the time being.

SPAIN

It was stated on **September 29** that the Secretary General of the League had refused to publish the documents regarding violations of the non-intervention agreement which had been sent to him by the Spanish Foreign Minister.

A memorandum issued by the Spanish delegation at Geneva on **October 2** gave fifteen instances of alleged violations of the agreement.

(continued in col. 3)

Peace Councils

DEMANDS AT MASS MEETINGS

The Last Year's Work at Bristol

THE immense enthusiasm which he had found among the common people of all countries during his travels through Europe, was described by Mr. P. J. Noel-Baker at a conference of London teachers under the auspices of the National Peace Council, which was held on Tuesday of last week.

A resolution calling upon the British Government to take the initiative in facing the problems of disarmament, economic sacrifices, and reform of the League Covenant, was carried unanimously at a mass meeting organized by the South Manchester Peace Council on Saturday.

The meeting was preceded by a poster parade, and a similar parade and meeting were held on Sunday.

Twenty organizations were represented at a meeting held on Wednesday of last week to set up a Wembley Peace Council. One of the speakers, Mr. Humphreys, said that 31 councils were represented at a recent meeting to form a federation of London peace councils, the majority of them having been formed during the past year, due to the fact that more people were realizing that they must do something to stop the drift toward war.

The first annual report of the Bristol Peace Council includes a brief record of the varied activities which were undertaken by this council during the past twelve months. Action was taken in connexion with all events of public importance, such as the Hoare-Laval agreement, the White Paper on rearmament, Empire air day, and so on.

Representatives also interviewed officials of two local newspapers and obtained their agreement to the publication of news concerning the council's activities.

A rally to protest against war preparations, and to present an alternative peace policy, was held by the Hull and District Peace Council on Sunday of last week. Six separate processions were arranged representing each of the parliamentary divisions in and around Hull.

(continued from col. 2)

In a telegram sent from Geneva on **October 2** in reply to the National Council of Labour's telegram regarding breaches of the agreement, Mr. Anthony Eden declared that the Government were fully conscious of the need for constant vigilance.

An unofficial committee which had been inquiring into the working of the agreement, in their report published on **October 4** declared that they were convinced "that it is in fact the unequal working of the non-intervention agreement which has resulted in the Spanish Government's being placed in their disadvantageous military position".

Despite several speeches against the policy of non-intervention, the Labour Party conference on **October 5** approved by a large majority the attitude so far adopted by the National Council of Labour in regard to the civil war.

General Franco arrived at Burgos on **October 1** and was reported to have said that "those who counted on him to uphold the privileges of capitalism were making a mistake". In a proclamation issued to the Spanish people he is said to have announced that Spain would be ruled by a corporative system similar to Portugal's.

The "Manchester Guardian" reported on **October 5** that General Franco had assured the British Government that he would respect the status quo in Morocco.

Peace Pledge Union

MORE INAUGURAL MEETINGS

The Campaign Continues

From Our Own Correspondents

THE White Stone Pond at Hampstead Heath is the scene of open-air meetings which have been held every Sunday for some time by the Hampstead Peace Pledge team. They have aroused a good deal of interest, PEACE NEWS and other literature finding a ready sale.

The spate of inaugural team meetings seems likely to continue unabated this month, and Bermondsey continued the good work on Friday of last week, when an inaugural meeting attended by nearly 25 people was held. Dr. A. Salter, M.P., was one of the speakers, and Mr. John Barclay outlined the procedure of group formation and activity.

"War is a blasphemy against God and we should have no part or lot in it whatsoever", said Canon S. D. Morris at a meeting arranged by the Peace Pledge Union and the South East London Christian Pacifist Council, at Lewisham Town Hall on Thursday of last week. Both Canon Morris and Dr. Salter urged the need for Christian principles to be applied to international affairs.

A joint meeting of the Peace Pledge team and the Methodist Peace Fellowship was held in Chesterfield on Friday of last week under the chairmanship of the Rev. A. G. Gray. A rota of speakers is being prepared, in order to commence a campaign in the churches and youth organizations of the district, to culminate in a large public meeting in February, when it is hoped to obtain the services of a well-known national speaker.

A team has now been formed at Reading, and at its first meeting on Monday Mr. John Barclay spoke on the "Plan of Action". The secretary of the team is Mr. W. Goodson, 56 De Beauvoir Road, Reading.

Youth Peace Assembly

PLANS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A New Youth Peace Council

In addition to a voting delegate and another delegate from every national youth organization and local youth council wishing to participate, visitors are invited to attend the second National Youth Peace Assembly to be held in Birmingham on the last two days of this month and the first of next.

After a public meeting on the Friday night, there will be sessions on the Saturday and Sunday at which the "Aims and Objects", the World Youth Congress and after, "A Policy for Youth", and a national youth peace campaign will be discussed. Two films of the Geneva congress will be shown and there will be a special meeting for students.

Further information and particulars of registration may be obtained on application (which should be made not later than next Friday) to the Secretary, c/o Youth House, 250 Camden Road, London, N.W.1.

The Mayor of Wood Green has consented to take the chair at a meeting to be held on Friday next which has been convened to form a Youth Peace Council for Wood Green and district. The Mayor of Southgate has also promised to be present.

WEEP NOT FOR ME BUT FOR YOURSELVES



This drawing by Arthur Wragg is used on posters by the Northampton Peace Pledge Union team.

The peace pledge is printed at the foot of the posters.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BRIEF REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

WORLD ECONOMIC SURVEY, 1935-

36. Allen & Unwin. 6s.

This annual analysis of world economic facts has been prepared for the League of Nations by Mr. J. B. Condiffe. The influence of rearmament plans is dealt with, and Mr. Condiffe points out that "apart from the explosive possibilities of armaments, most economists look askance at the long-run consequences of distorted production, capital wastage, and financial difficulties inherent in such methods of providing employment." Another significant fact revealed in this book is that recovery is most in evidence in countries where rearmament has not so far been a very important factor.

THE RECORD OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. Ramsay Muir. Allen & Unwin. 5s.

In the preface to this book Mr. Muir records his belief that the National Government is "the worst, the weakest, the most timidous, and the most incompetent Government that Britain has known since the days of Lord North". He sets out to prove that this assertion is founded on fact, by means of devoting a separate chapter to an analysis of the Government's record in each department of its work—unemployment, finance, foreign policy, and so on.

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PATH TO PEACE. Lawrence & Wishart. 3s. 6d.

This collection of statements and documents covering the period from 1917 to 1936 forms a very useful reference work for those concerned with the part played by the U.S.S.R. in international affairs.

NEARING THE ABYSS. Lord Davies. Constable. 3s. 6d.

In this book Lord Davies draws the lesson which is to be learnt from recent events in Abyssinia.

THE INTELLIGENT MAN'S WAY TO PREVENT WAR. Gollancz. 2s. 6d.

The publishers are to be commended on producing a half-crown edition of this work, which first appeared in 1934. The contributors include Sir Norman Angell, Mr. Arnold Forster, and Charles Roden Buxton, and the whole has been edited by Mr. Leonard Woolf.

The address of the secretary of the Urmston and District Youth Peace Council, Miss E. Creasey, is 6 Fairview Terrace, Flixton Road, Urmston, near Manchester, and not as stated in our recent directory.

STATEMENT ON SPAIN. Union of Democratic Control.

This leaflet contains the statement which the Executive Committee of the Union of Democratic Control issued on September 16, calling for a "definite statement by the British Government" with regard to non-intervention and the position of Portugal.

NEW PICTORIAL POSTER

Join the R.A.F. Your Victim can't hit back is the wording of a new pictorial poster which is now obtainable from the No More War Movement, 55 Long Acre, London W.C.2, price 3d.

A PACIFIST'S "IF"

VIII

IF we support the horrible things done in war on the ground that the end justifies the means, then we accept a morality that St. Paul indignantly repudiated, when he refused to entertain the idea of doing evil that good may come. (From "Fourteen Points of a Pacifist Priest" by Rev. C. Paul Gliddon.)

The Drama

REVIVAL OF "THE INSECT PLAY"

"THE Insect Play", which was re-viewed in a previous number of PEACE NEWS, has commenced another run at the Little Theatre.

All who have not seen this play should take this opportunity and, incidentally, support Miss Nancy Price in her valiant effort for peace propaganda.

No satire on modern dictatorships has ever been so effectively presented on the stage, as it is in the ant scene, in which two ant colonies fight for "possession of the right of way between the two blades of grass."

I have also been advised of the production of "The Bridge", by Cecile Adair, at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, during the week of October 26. I understand that this is prior to a London production. It may also be seen at the Itali Hall, Hove, on November 5 and 7.

This play should be excellent propaganda for "peace through the power of love". It shows a scientist who has invented a deadly poison gas which, accidentally kills a party of tourists who shelter in his hut.

We then see the dead people groping around in their after-death state and the horrified scientist finding the dead bodies. This scene provides a great scope for the producer.

I cannot do better than sum up the play in the words of the preliminary notice:—

Sentiment, charm, romance, a better, more comforting, understanding of death and the after life, an intellectual message to all.

A play that is "good theatre" and sound entertainment. These are the qualities of "The Bridge".

JOHN ATHEY.

Join the

PEACE PLEDGE UNION

Copy out on a post-card this pledge:—

I renounce war and I will never support or sanction another.

Sign your name and address and send it to:—

THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION

96 Regent Street, W.1,

(Telephone: REGent 2843-4)

who will be pleased to answer any questions.

Personal Activities:—

1. Prove that non-violence applied with honesty and bravery is more potent than mere physical destruction.

2. Explain that pacifism is not submission but a road to power and freedom.

3. Remember when talking to people to put your case in such a way that you do not raise their anger—or become angry yourself.

4. Make use of the press.

5. Form an active branch in your own locality and keep in touch with headquarters.

FACTS & FIGURES

RECRUITING—YOUNG AND OLD

Recruiting for the new infantry section of the Supplementary Reserve opened on September 1, and the number enrolled up to September 12 was 286. This section is open to unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 25, and the initial establishment was fixed at 17,000 men.

On the other hand, the number enrolled into the National Defence Companies, Territorial Army, during the same period, was 2,081, with a further 2,500 applications for enrolment still under consideration. The National Defence Companies are open to ex-members of the Forces, between the ages of 45 and 60, and their total establishment is approximately 8,450.

SICKLE OR SWASTIKA?—2

We gave last week results of a ballot conducted among its readers by the "Daily Express" in an endeavour to discover on which side British sympathy would lie in the event of war between Germany and Russia.

A similar ballot conducted by "News Review" a few months ago yielded the following results:—

Votes for Russia	68 per cent.
Votes for Germany	30 per cent.
Neutral votes	2 per cent.

In the U.S.A. a ballot arranged by the "Review of Reviews" resulted in Russia's receiving approximately 59 per cent. of the votes, Germany 31 per cent., while 10 per cent. were neutral.

GERMANY'S NATIONAL DEBT

According to "Wirtschaft und Statistik", Germany's total indebtedness at the end of July amounted to £1,172,000,000, compared with £1,069,000,000 a year previously. Foreign debts amount to £132,000,000.

Facts about

GAS ATTACKS*

VIII.

The problem of decontamination after a gas attack varies with the type of gas which has been employed.

The lung-irritants can be dispersed from houses fairly rapidly if all windows are opened and fires lighted in grates. Cellars would present a greater difficulty, some idea of which is given by the fact that a French ship, after disinfection with chloropicrin, was not clear of gas in five days in spite of opening all port-holes and ventilators, and the use of a suction pump.

Decontamination from mustard gas and Lewisite is more important, as their spontaneous dispersal is very slow. Liquid mustard gas or Lewisite, standing on a roadway, could be washed away by vigorous hosing with water. This method would be less effective than might appear at first sight.

They can also be destroyed by oxidizing agents, the most convenient of which is chloride of lime. The amounts required are large; 1,760 tons would be required for a street one mile long and twenty yards wide. Mustard gas and Lewisite which have soaked into concrete, brickwork or wood, cannot be removed in this way; the materials must be destroyed.

* From Socialist Medical Association pamphlet (Lawrence & Wishart, 6d.)

The Annual Report, 1935-1936 of the National Peace Council has now been published and gives a concise summary of the work undertaken by that body from May, 1935, until April of this year.

Background

GOVERN TWO "

An

THE news of the general who has formed a separate South China official position, was to a dispute with the Chinese Kai-shek.

In a recent general position, Chiang Kai-shek pointed out that there had been between Kwangsi and central authority varied, among the policy pursued by Kai-shek of Nanking; the gradual invasions in the end to the independence of Kwangtung personal antagonism on the part of Chiang Kai-shek, through the transit of Kwangtung.

through Kwangtung sent more than the sum of a portion effectively abolished the consumption of That Japan's dispute is while

"nationals" among those of G. Supplied military to the same purpose profit."

HOW

BRITAIN'S theme of a letter from Paul Mauger, Friend" recently

Declaring that from a profound the honest intentions of the "Mandatory" inquiry into its movement, and developments, although the Prime Minister

Space considerations our publishing letter in "The

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Background of CHINA

GOVERNMENT AND TWO "KWANGS"

An Old Feud

THE news (reported in PEACE NEWS of September 12) that two generals who had previously attempted to form a separatist regime in Kwangsi, South China, had been appointed to official positions by the Nanking Government, was the peaceful settlement to a dispute which had long troubled the Chinese Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-shek.

In a recent article surveying the general position in China, the Shanghai Correspondent of "The Times" pointed out that the main conflict has been between the two "Kwangs"—Kwangsi and Kwangtung—and the central authority. Its causes have been varied, among them being:

the policy pursued by General Chiang Kai-shek of concentrating power in Nanking;

the gradual unification of other provinces in the South, threatening an end to the independence of Kwangsi and Kwangtung; and

personal antagonism to the Generalissimo on the part of Kwangsi leaders.

Chiang Kai-shek also cut off the opium transit trade which passed



through Kwangsi, and which "represented more than half the total revenue of a poor province which had effectively abolished the growth and consumption of the drug."

That Japan also played a part in the dispute is instance in the article, while

"nations of other Powers including those of Great Britain, have also supplied military or naval equipment to the same parties, with no more sinister purpose than to make commercial profit."

HOW TO END THE PALESTINE TERROR

BRITAIN'S share of responsibility for Palestine's troubles, was the theme of a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mauger, published in "The Friend" recently.

Declaring that "the troubles arise from a profound loss of confidence in the honest intentions of Britain as Mandatory" they quote the case of an inquiry into immigration, land settlement, and development, where the findings, although supported in a Government White Paper, were reversed by the Prime Minister.

Space considerations alone prevent our publishing in full an important letter in "The Times" on Wednesday

HOW YOUTH CAN STOP WAR

In our issue of September 5 we referred to a book entitled *Youth Can Stop War*, in which Mr. Arthur H. Bird had gathered together a collection of messages to youth from various well-known writers, peace workers, and so on.

In the "open letter to young men and women" which we print below, Mr. Bird gives some concrete suggestions as to how youth can help to prevent war.

SOME time ago I received a letter from a friend in which the following question was asked: **What can we do to prevent such a dreadful war as the next will undoubtedly be?** I want to answer that question not only for my friend's sake, but for yours.

For, if war breaks out, the usual appeals will be made to young men to fight for "king and country."

The result will be that thousands of young men will throw away years of training to fit themselves to take their place in the world, and march to the blood and mud of the trenches, or be mangled and choked by bombs and poison gas from the air. Look what happened last time.

Was it an honourable thing to do to send a generation to die for the satisfaction of Austria?

No! a thousand times, no! There is no righteousness in war in any circumstances.

That is why I am a pacifist. I believe that war is definitely antagonistic to the teaching of Christ and as such I cannot compromise.

It is as wrong to mangle bodies and wreck lives in a war of defence as in a war of aggression. To justify a war of defence will be to justify the next war our country takes part in and therefore to justify war.

And so I come to the first way in which you can help the cause of peace—by renouncing war and refusing to fight.

I believe youth could stop war if youth would refuse to fight. The old men invariably harangue each other at the conferences, make the plans, draw up the white papers, and the young men go to settle the differences.

If youth stood solid for peace and said "we will not fight" war would soon be relegated to the limbo of things out of date.

Some time ago the young men of Oxford passed their famous resolution that on no account would they fight for king and country. Fourteen other universities and colleges have said the same.

Readers of PEACE NEWS will recall that similar resolutions have been passed by the youth of other nations. At last young men are realizing the awful futility of war. It is not that they are cowards—far from it—one needs plenty of courage to be a pacifist. But they believe there are better ways of settling disputes than fighting over them.

A second way of helping the cause of peace is by joining some peace organization. There are a number of these organizations connected with the churches, and you can get particulars about these and other societies from PEACE NEWS. Join one of these or-

ganizations and give it your whole-hearted support. Get your friends to do the same.

Remember, unity is strength. The stronger these societies become in membership, the more will they be able to influence the "Government of Peace."

A third way in which to help the cause of peace is the distribution of peace literature.

It is worth sacrificing a shilling or two to realize that you are really doing active service for peace by giving out pamphlets that will encourage others to do their duty in this direction.

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Fourthly, I think that one of the best ways of bringing about international friendship is by the interchange of groups of people going from one country to another endeavouring to get to know and understand the people in whose country they travel.

A movement has been set on foot to do this under the leadership of teams of public speakers. Already a visit has been made by upwards of a hundred people to Holland.

Two more embassies were arranged for this year, both of them to Germany. In course of time embassy groups will be formed in other countries and it is hoped that groups of other nations will be able to keep up a regular correspondence with the groups which will be formed in England.

These groups will be able to supply representatives who will, as their circumstances may permit, join in further embassies, and thus endeavour to create friendly international feeling.

There are other ways in which young men and women can help to spread a spirit of goodwill among men and nations, such as by interesting themselves in youth organizations and introducing talks on the international situation, or by writing to the press and the B.B.C. in support of articles and talks on the subject of peace.

And, what is very important, by interesting themselves in Church work and seeking to serve in some capacity in the Church that appeals to them most. It is through teaching and preaching the message of Jesus Christ that peace will finally be brought to this stricken world.

The sooner we realize this and the more we strive to bring the kingdom of love nearer, the sooner will we have international friendship and understanding. The Church needs you. The cause of peace needs you and needs you at your best.

Consecrate your talents in a noble endeavour to bring the peace of the nations and the kingdom of God nearer.

of the No More War Movement, recently suggested:

1. Withdrawal of British troops from Palestine.

2. A democratic constitution for the country, as demanded by the Arab majority.

3. A strong moral appeal to the Arabs on the grounds that, having at last been treated fairly themselves, they should deal generously with the Jewish population already settled in their country.

4. Simultaneously an approach to the Jewish community to abandon a policy that has done more than Hitler's speeches to stir up anti-Semitism;

Letters to the Editor

IS PACIFISM NEGATIVE?

"Here's the Answer!"

Dear Sir,—I have recently purchased a copy of Richard B. Gregg's book, *The Power of Non-Violence*. After reading it, I feel it represents a challenge to the whole pacifist movement in this country, particularly the Peace Pledge Union.

Here is the answer to those critics who maintain that pacifism is negative, and has no constructive policy by which to overcome the evils of militarism and violence!

In the technique of non-violence so convincingly explained by Richard Gregg, there are all the fine qualities of the soldier used, not for destruction, but for the building up of a true world order based on love and fellowship. Non-violent resistance is shown to be consistent with psychology and with one's emotional life as it appeals to the best in people, and must in the long run overcome evil with good.

I hope, therefore, that groups of the Peace Pledge Union and the Fellowship of Reconciliation who are studying the constructive side of peace, both in international affairs and in industrial affairs, will take as their text-book *The Power of Non-Violence*.

If the 100,000 men and women who have signed the peace pledge can discipline themselves in the method and spirit of non-violence, there is, I think, hope for the future of civilization.

ALEC BUNCH.

The Braids,
Oakleigh Park South, N.20.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD

Dear Sir,—Sometimes it does one good to stand still awhile and just look on. We are taking a bird's eye view of the nations and in a brief survey we see—war in Spain, in Palestine, and a race in armaments in nearly every country.

Aeroplanes—ships—guns—gas-masks—for defence. Defence against what?—more aeroplanes—more guns—torpedoes and poison gas.

These things have never given us a constructive policy yet, for they are manufactured with the sole purpose of destruction.

But let us take another look—the scene is more peaceful: green fields—winding rivers—the harvest just gathered in.

We don't want our food and water poisoned—neither does Germany, France, Italy, or Russia so let us listen: someone is speaking. He says "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly".

But how?

"Love your enemies. Do good to them that hate you. Bless them that curse you."

The only constructive policy that will stand the test, and when we put it into practice, Christ speaks again—"Peace be unto you".

This should be the attitude of the pacifist at all times, knowing full well there can be no evil where good is, no hate where love is, and no power greater than the power of God—infinitely life and love.

ETHEL R. FROST.

28 Cambridge Road, —
Bromley, Kent.

especially as that policy would now be completely futile and suicidal.

The division of Palestine into two independent autonomous States—one Arab and one Jew—was advocated by Sir Stafford Cripps in a letter to the "Manchester Guardian".

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October

11. 3.30 p.m. Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, **Manchester**; public meeting (women specially invited) to be addressed by Miss Dorothy Woodman; organized by joint committee of women's organizations in Manchester.
- 8 p.m. Barnbygate Methodist No. 2 Church, **Newark**; "Youth Speaks" on behalf of anti-war exhibition; Newark Peace Society.
12. 3 p.m. Y.W.C.A., Central Buildings, **London, W.C.1**; Miss K. D. Courtney on "The League of Nations Assembly"; under auspices of Women's Peace Crusade Council.
- 5.30 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, **London, N.W.1**; first lecture by Dr. Graham Howe of a course and study group on "Advances in understanding causes of war"; Home and School Council of Great Britain.
- 8 p.m. St. Gabriel's Small Hall, **Cricklewood**; meeting of Willesden Peace Council to welcome delegates from Brussels Congress.
- 8 p.m. Petition Club, 23 Grosvenor Place, **London, S.W.1**; meeting to be addressed by Mr. A. Mouravieff on "League Reform"; Younger Generations.
- 9.45 p.m. 100 Oxford Street, **London, W.1**; meeting of "International Friends" to be addressed by Mr. John Barclay.
13. 1.20-2 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, **London, N.W.1**; public lunch hour address by Professor G. E. G. Catlin on "My Impressions of the Brussels Conference"; Friends Service Council.
- 5.30 p.m. Dighbeth Institute, **Birmingham**; public meeting to be addressed by Professor H. G. Wood on "Christian Pacifism and International Law"; Christian Pacifist Crusade.
- 7.45 p.m. Methodist Church, Culver Street, **Colchester**; inaugural meeting of Peace Pledge Union team to be addressed by Captain Mumford.
- 8 p.m. Friends' House, Rayners Lane, **Harrow**; inaugural meeting of P.P.U. team to be addressed by Mr. Maurice Rountree.
- 8 p.m. Drawing Room, Streatham Hall, **Streatham**; Lady Layton on "Is War Inevitable in Europe?"; Chairman, Mr. Harold Watson; Council of Action.
14. 8 p.m. Hazelwood Lane School, Palmers Green, **Winchmore Hill**; public meeting to be addressed by Canon S. D. Morris; arranged by local team of P.P.U.
- 8 p.m. King Edward Hall, Church End, **Finchley**; public meeting to be addressed by Dr. J. C. Maxwell Garnett and others; Finchley Peace Council.
14. 8 p.m. Mont Eagle Schools, Stamford Road, **Dagenham**; public meeting to be addressed by Capt. Mumford; Becontree P.P.U.
15. 1.20-2 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, **London, N.W.1**; public lunch hour address by George Lansbury on "My Peace Campaign in Europe"; Friends Service Council.
- 6.30 p.m. 43 Russell Square, **London, W.C.1**; first of three weekly discussion conferences on reform of the League; led by Mr. G. A. Innes; fee 2s.; London Regional Federation, League of Nations Union.
- 6.30-7.15 p.m. St. George's Church, **Bloomsbury**; first of series of special services arranged by group of Anglican clergy. (See Classified Advertisements.)
- 6.30 p.m. & 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House, **Baldock** and Friends Meeting House, **Hitchin**; meetings to be addressed by Mr. John Barclay; Letchworth and District P.P.U.
- 8 p.m. Esdale Hall, **Hoddesdon**; public meeting to be addressed by Brig.-Gen. F. P. Crozier and Rev. B. C. Hopson; P.P.U.
- 8 p.m. Congregational Church, **Bexleyheath**; public meeting to be addressed by Canon Stuart Morris; arranged by local team of P.P.U.
16. 6 p.m. Folk House, College Green, **Bristol**; churches' conference; speaker, Rev. C. G. Langdon; organized in connexion with No More War Movement annual conference.
- 8 p.m. Unity Hall, Newnham Road, **Wood Green**; inaugural meeting, presided over by Mayor of Wood Green, to form youth peace council for the district.
- 8 p.m. Friends House, Euston Road, **London, N.W.1**; Mr. H. A. Southwell to address N.W.1 and W.C.1 members of P.P.U.
- 16-18. Folk House, College Green, **Bristol**; annual conference of No More War Movement.
17. 3 p.m. Folk House, College Green, **Bristol**; educational conference; Harold F. Bing on "Education and constructive peace"; in connexion with No More War Movement conference.
- 7.45 p.m. Trinity Church Hall, London Road, **Southend**; Canon Stuart Morris at inaugural meeting of Peace Pledge team.
- 8 p.m. Folk House, College Green, **Bristol**; industrial conference; speakers, Councillors Fred Berrier and Richard Bland; No More War Movement.
18. 7 p.m. Olympia Cinema, Carey's Lane, **Bristol**; public meeting to be addressed by Lord Ponsonby, Laurence Housman, and others; arranged by No More War Movement.

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Letters to the Editor

DISARMAMENT IS NOT ENOUGH

Outward Sign of Inward Grace

A Propaganda Point

Dear Sir,—While following the correspondence which has been going on in "The Times", initiated by a letter from Lord Ponsonby, it has struck me that Lord Ponsonby has missed an important aspect of disarmament. With him I personally am "prepared to argue that complete disarmament would be a surer defence for our freedom than rearmament", but I should wish to go further. **Disarmament, unilateral or otherwise, is not enough.**

If I am on bad terms with another, the mere fact that I am not carrying a lethal weapon designed for his destruction will not make peace between us. I shall have to go to him, humble myself if need be, find out the cause of the "bad terms" and be willing to do all in my power to remove that cause. Unless I can bring myself to this course of action, I do not think that my "disarmament" will do much good.

Disarmament should be the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. If the nations are not coveting the possession of that grace, any measure of disarmament will fail in its true purpose.

I suggest that this thought needs to be constantly put before the public in our spoken and written words.

JOS. S. ROWNTREE.

The Stone House,
Goathland, York.

ATTITUDE TO WOMEN

"Good Equalitarian's" View

Dear Sir,—One of your paragraphs in the September 26 issue of your excellent newspaper is headed "Women Members Wanted." I do not know if this want is merely local, or national.

But I should like just to say that, as a good equalitarian, I am often a little shocked at the rather antiquated attitude to women expressed by some of your contributors. Can this explain the slightly less appeal your cause has so far made?

The reform for which, surely, men or women, we long with an equal ardour, the removal for ever from the world of the scourge of war, makes its appeal to us fundamentally upon a basis of humanity. It is an undertaking so vast that we cannot afford to tackle it in any weak or dilatory spirit, neither can we bear the possibility of disunity.

Therefore let us most rejoicingly forget, in joining for this task, the "accident" of sex, along with the accident of class or any other irrelevant division in a cause certainly great enough to level all such barriers and to expose, by contrast, their essential artificiality.

ANNE PROTHEROE JONES.
Bibury, Cirencester.

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LITERATURE

PEACE PLEDGE UNION: One poster is now ready and can be obtained from 96 Regent Street, London, W.1, price 2d.

Buy your copy of **The Power of Non-Violence**, by Richard Gregg, price 5s., also from 96 Regent Street.

MEETINGS

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (London Union). A Fellowship Hour, for communion with God and each other, led by Rev. Alan Balding, is being held the third Monday in each month from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., at 165 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

THE CONSTRUCTIVE CHRISTIAN ANSWER TO THE THREAT OF WAR: Thursday evenings beginning October 15 at the Church of Saint George, Bloomsbury: 6.30-7.15 p.m. a short service and an address: conducted by the Rev. Gilbert Shaw, and on October 22 address by the Rev. Canon Sheppard.

MODERN CULTURE INSTITUTE. Dr. Har Dayal, M.A., Ph.D., will give the following lectures at Caxton Hall at 8 p.m. Admission free.

October 23: "After Christianity, WHAT?" November 20: "The World State, WHY?" December 11: "Develop your personality, HOW?" Read Dr. Dayal's book, "Hints for Self-Culture" (Watts, 5s.)

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